THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) There are no separate statistics regarding employment through Tourism in Assam. However based on Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) 2002-03, the contribution of Tourism Sector to employment in the country as a whole is estimated as 8.78% in 2003-04.

The schemes of the Ministry aim at boosting tourism in the country for economic growth.

Special Tourism Zones

1030. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Tourism Zones in the country;

(b) whether any special financial allocation has been made to facilitate the development of these zones; and

(c) if so, what is the amount thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is no scheme in the Ministry of Tourism for establishment of Special Tourism Zones.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Laying of beds on sea beaches of Goa

1031. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any uniform policy on tourism for the purpose of laying beds on sea beaches in the country;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to incorporate the aspect in their Tourism Policy;

(c) whether a controversy has arisen in the State of Goa in the matter of allowing laying of beds on the sea beaches of Goa;

(d) whether the State Government of Goa has consulted the Central Government in this matter; and

(e) if so, what advise, if any, the Central Government have given to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.